

# Examining How World Religions Approach Current Moral Issues

## Part 1: Resources for Solving Moral Problems

In the following chart, fill in the check boxes that apply to each World Religion as they compare to the Church's method of dealing with moral issues. **Reference pages are found in the World Religions textbook.**

Be careful to find reputable sources if you are planning to use websites for some of your information. Also, be careful to use more than one resource in order to ensure accuracy – much of what you find on the Internet, especially about Church teaching, is mistaken.

### Some Recommended Resources:

1. Humanum International Colloquium (Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue)
  - a. This website offers a number of excellent short videos that give the perspective of various world religions on current moral issues, especially those related to marriage and family.
  - b. Website: <http://humanum.it/en/videos/>
2. *Choosing A World-View and Value-System* by Fr. Benedict M. Ashley OP
  - a. Book: New York, Alba House Publishing, 2000.
3. *Religions of the World* by Fr. John A. Hardon SJ (Volumes I and II)
  - a. Book: New York: Image Books, 1963.
4. World Religions Index
  - a. Website: <http://wri.leaderu.com/>
  - b. Website: [http://www.global-ethic-now.de/gen-eng/0b\\_weltethos-und-religionen/0b-00-einleitung/0b-00-religionen.php](http://www.global-ethic-now.de/gen-eng/0b_weltethos-und-religionen/0b-00-einleitung/0b-00-religionen.php)
5. Religious Views on Abortion
  - a. <http://www.beliefnet.com/News/2000/07/Views-of-Abortion.aspx>
  - b. <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/01/16/religious-groups-official-positions-on-abortion/>
  - c. [https://www.spuc.org.uk/youth/student\\_info\\_on\\_abortion/religion](https://www.spuc.org.uk/youth/student_info_on_abortion/religion)
  - d. <http://www.familyandlife.org/resources/faq/religions-and-abortion>
6. Religious Views on Euthanasia
  - a. <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/11/21/religious-groups-views-on-end-of-life-issues/>
  - b. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/euthanasia/religion/religion.shtml> (Use the links to see what various religions teach.)
7. Religious Views on the Death Penalty/Capital Punishment
  - a. <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/11/04/religious-groups-official-positions-on-capital-punishment/>
  - b. <http://www.religionlink.com/source-guides/is-the-death-penalty-moral-what-do-religious-groups-say/>
  - c. <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php%3Fdid%3D2249>
8. Religious Views on Same-Sex Attraction
  - a. <http://www.pewforum.org/2012/12/07/religious-groups-official-positions-on-same-sex-marriage/>
9. Religious Views on Stem-Cell Research
  - a. <http://www.pewforum.org/2008/07/17/religious-groups-official-positions-on-stem-cell-research/>
10. Religious Views on War/Just War
  - a. <http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/submitted/Perry/ethics.html>
  - b. [http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/infodocs/st\\_religions.html](http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/infodocs/st_religions.html)
11. Religious Views on Human Rights
  - a. <http://religionhumanrights.com/religion.htm>
12. Religious Views on Social Justice and The Dignity of Work

- a. [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms\\_172371.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms_172371.pdf)
  - b. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/05/religion-and-poverty-reli\\_n\\_1854606.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/05/religion-and-poverty-reli_n_1854606.html)
  - c. [http://www.global-ethic-now.de/gen-eng/0a\\_was-ist-weltethos/0a-pdf/decl\\_english.pdf](http://www.global-ethic-now.de/gen-eng/0a_was-ist-weltethos/0a-pdf/decl_english.pdf)
13. Religious Views on Ecology
- a. <http://fore.yale.edu/religion/>

Characteristics of Catholic Moral Teaching	Buddhism (pp. 274-277)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Scripture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Tradition</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority (Magisterium)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal role models – Life of Christ and the Saints</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity of the Human Person</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the importance of Community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on stewardship of the created Universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A “preferential option” for the poor and suffering, and a demand for self-giving sacrificial love.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity and rights of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>
Hinduism (pp. 248-251)	Judaism (p. 136)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity and rights of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity and rights of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>

Islam (pp. 208, 214)	Sikhism (pp. 302-303)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity and rights of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity and rights of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>
Secular Humanism (pp. 323-324)	Aboriginal / First Nations (pp. 86-87)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity and rights of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scriptures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Central Teaching Authority</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ideal Role Models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Debate and Discussion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reason: Logic, Philosophy and Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the dignity of the individual person.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on the community.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on balance and stewardship in relationship to the material universe.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A special focus on the poor and suffering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special duties and rituals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>

**Part 2: Researching Two Current Ethical Issues and the Teachings of World Religions**

**Instructions:**

1. Choose two current ethical issues that you will research using the *World Religions* textbook and the other sources. You are free to choose from the following topics:
  - (a) Social Justice / Poverty
  - (b) War and Conflict
  - (c) Euthanasia
  - (d) Abortion
  - (e) Marriage
  - (f) Contraception
  - (g) Death Penalty
  - (h) Same-Sex Attraction
  - (i) In Vitro Fertilization and Assisted Reproductive Technologies
  - (j) Eugenics
  - (k) Ecology
  - (l) Embryonic Stem Cell Researching
  - (m) Human Rights and Human Equity
  - (n) Modesty in Dress and Deportment
  - (o) Rights to Private Property
  - (p) Hunting, Fishing and Trapping
  - (q) Usury
  - (r) Rights to Privacy
  
2. Complete the charts below for each of the topics.
  - (a) Remember that you must research the doctrine of **two** different world religions on each topic.
  - (b) You must also research the Church's teaching for each topic.
  - (c) Many religions may have a diversity of ethical teachings on a topic. (ex. Protestantism)

Moral Issue 1: \_\_\_\_\_

World Religion:	World Religion:
What does this religion teach about the moral issue?	What does this religion teach about the moral issue?
Why does this religion teach what it does?	Why does this religion teach what it does?
What does the Church teach on this moral issue and why?	
How is this world religion's teaching on this moral in agreement with the Church's doctrine?	How is this world religion's teaching on this moral in agreement with the Church's doctrine?
What are the deficiencies of this world religion's teaching on this moral issue in relation to the Church's doctrine?	What are the deficiencies of this world religion's teaching on this moral issue in relation to the Church's doctrine?

Moral Issue 2: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>World Religion:</b>	<b>World Religion:</b>
What does this religion teach about the moral issue?	What does this religion teach about the moral issue?
Why does this religion teach what it does?	Why does this religion teach what it does?
What does the Church teach on this moral issue and why?	
How is this world religion's teaching on this moral in agreement with the Church's doctrine?	How is this world religion's teaching on this moral in agreement with the Church's doctrine?
What are the deficiencies of this world religion's teaching on this moral issue in relation to the Church's doctrine?	What are the deficiencies of this world religion's teaching on this moral issue in relation to the Church's doctrine?